

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the Specification as follows:

On page 1, the paragraph beginning on line 17:

An image-correction method for correcting such shading is disclosed, for example, in Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2000-69371. In particular, the image-correction method in an image pickup apparatus disclosed in Fig. 1 in Embodiment 1 is adapted to implement shading correction, by calculating a shading-correction coefficient approximated by a two-order (an N-order) curved-surface function of the coordinates of pixels, and by multiplying an output signal ~~from~~ from a CCD (Charge Coupled Device) by the shading-correction coefficient.

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